

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06161 181653Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 AID-05 DHA-02 /074 W  
-----085341 181655Z /43

O R 181600Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7835

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JO, IS, PBOR

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTS ON NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

REF: TEL AVIV 6111

1. A NUMBER OF INTERESTING REPORTS APPEARED IN THE ISRAELI PRESS AUGUST 18 FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT THE DAY BEFORE (ON RADIO ISRAEL) OF GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR THREE NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE WEST BANK. ARYE TZIMUKI, A WELL-CONNECTED AND USUALLY RELIABLE REPORTER FOR YEDIOT AHARONOT WROTE THAT "SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL THEIR DISATISFACTION OVER THE MANNER IN WHICH SESSIONS OF THE SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE ARE MADE PUBLIC...THERE IS ALSO DISSATISFACTION AT THE LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN ARIK SHARON (NOTE: CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE) AND POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 06161 181653Z

JERUSALEM, BOTH IN REGARD TO THE TIMING OF THE RECENT DECISIONS AND IN THE MANNER OF ITS PUBLICATION." TZIMUKI HAS TOLD US THAT BEGIN LEARNED OF THE LATEST DECISION FROM THE RADIO REPORT.

2. JOSEPH HARIF OF MAARIV CITED "RELIABLE SOURCES

IN JERUSALEM" - -68,& 5#-5 7.S. REACTIONS WILL NOT STOP THE GOVERNMENT FROM PERSISTING IN ITS PLANNING OF SETTLEMENTS. POLITICAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE, HARIF WROTE, THAT THE AMERICANS WILL ABSTAIN FROM SHARP REACTIONS LEST EFFORTS TO ARRANGE TALKS BETWEEN ISRAELI AND ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH BE FRUSTRATED. BEGIN HAS ALREADY MADE CLEAR IN HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND WITH SECRETARY VANCE THAT IT WOULD BE INCONCEIVABLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT JEWS FROM SETTLING IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA. THUS, STATEMENTS BY AUTHORIZED SPOKESMEN IN WASHINGTON EXPRESSING SURPRISE EACH TIME ISRAEL DECIDES ON A NEW SETTLEMENT ARE IN THEMSELVES SURPRISING. THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN REACTION THAT NEW SETTLEMENTS ARE "AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE" CONTAINS NOTHING NEW, ACCORDING TO HARIF'S "POLITICAL CIRCLES."

3. ANOTHER HAARIV REPORTER (WACHSMAN) WROTE THAT OF THE 14 MEMBERS OF THE MINISTERIAL SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE, ONLY FIVE ATTENDED THE SESSION AT WHICH THE DECISION WAS MADE ON THE THREE NEWEST SETTLEMENTS. THESE WERE SHARON (MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE), PATT (MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING), WEITZ (JEWISH AGENCY SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT), RIVLIN (CHAIRMAN, JEWISH NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 06161 181653Z

FUND), AND KRONE (ZIONIST EXECUTIVE).

4. ARYE DULZIN (JEWISH AGENCY TREASURER) REFUSED TO ATTEND THE COMMITTEE MEETING BECAUSE SHARON REFUSED TO TEL HIM WHAT WAS TO BE ON THE AGENDA, ACCORDING TO STILL ANOTHER REPORT. AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE PREVIOUS MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL ON APRIL 19, THE DECISION ON THE THREE SETTLEMENTS WAS UNAPPOSED. THE THREE SETTLEMENTS WILL BE SET UP ON STONEY, UNINHABITED GROUND "OWNED" BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE BUDGET FOR THEIR ESTABLISHMENT IS ALREADY GUARANTEED AND IMPLEMENTATION WILL PROBABLY BE INITIATED WITHIN TWO OR THREE WEEKS.

5. THERE ARE SEVERAL REPORTS THAT MAPAM'S SETTLEMENT ORGANIZATION (HASHOMER HATZA'IR) DENIED ANY INTENTION OF FUNDING A SETTLEMENT AT ZUR NATAN (REFTEL, PARA 2). IN A QUOTE NOT NOTED ELSEWHERE, HAARETZ' LITANI CITES ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING AS SAYING THAT THE RECENT DECISION WAS "TECHNICAL, NOT

POLITICAL."  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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